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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

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SUBJECT Comments on Articles Appearing in the Official Journal of Surgery Edited by the Ministry of Health in Moscow and

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PLACE ACQUIRED Leningrad

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. The journal "Vyestnik Khirurhii" (The Surgical News-Reporter) published every two months, generally gives the impression that it is edited for general practical use for surgeons. The character of the articles is more practical than scientific.

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Here are a few points of general interest:

2. Dr. N. Z. Blinov from the State Institute of Completion of Physicians [sic] in Leningrad write an article (Journal #1, Volume 72, 1952) about the mechanics of influence in blood transfusion. His standpoint is that the transfusion's reaction is only the reflectory effect from irritated central nervous system and he does not recognize any chemical or biological processes in the body which receive the blood. From this view, discussing transfusion's reaction, he completely ignores Rh factor and does not even mention it as a biological factor of reaction. He also tries to prove that the blood groups are not highly significant for blood transfusions. The transfusion's reactions which occur when the wrong blood group is given are, in his opinion, not because of the wrong blood group but because of the poor technic of the transfusion. In such case the poor technic irritates too strongly the nervous system and therefore the reaction takes place. When the nervous system will be depressed or paralyzed during the transfusion, in his opinion, there is apparently no reaction. He illustrates this theory with experiments on only one animal when, with the wrong blood group, novocain was given intravenously. In this case he did not observe any reaction. With the human being, he illustrates also only one case when blood group A was given to a patient with blood group O during the anesthesia (surgery) in amount of 300 cc. He states there was no reaction but the patient had a rash over the entire body and hemoglobinuria (hemoglobin in urine) for at least two days. In his opinion, these symptoms are probably not signs of transfusion's reaction. What are the signs of reaction in his opinion? He did not give any laboratory tests for patients which could show any kidney or liver damages from this transfusion. He did not especially recommend the use of wrong blood groups for patients but, in his opinion, if the wrong blood group must be given (he did not indicate any reason for it), it could be done only a careful technic should be used. This "careful technic" is a dropping method when the patient receives not more than 2 cc of wrong blood per one minute. He does not mention any indication and contra-indication for such a "new technic."

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3. The article is chaotic, it was confusing [redacted] Whether this kind of transfusion is tried because of shortage of blood in USSR or because it is of scientific interest [redacted] figure out from this article. The article shows a very poor knowledge of biochemistry of blood in modern medicine. 25X1 25X1

4. Dr A. A. Kampelmacher from the State Medical School in Svierdlovsk discusses in the same journal the indication of splenectomies in cases of some hemorrhagic diseases. He gives neither classification of hemorrhagic diseases nor the significant laboratory tests for diagnosis of hemorrhage. As ar only indication for splenectomy, he gives the history or presence of bleeding (any kind, as from bowel, mouth, nose; into joints; under the skin, etc.) and enlarged spleen. The laboratory diagnosis is made only from reports of Hgb., rbc, wbc and differential and platelet count. There is not any sign of other important laboratory tests to distinguish the character or disease. All hemorrhagic diseases with splenopathy are named by him as 'Morbus Werlhofil' (acute or chronic) and he indicates a splenectomy. He reports that in surgical hospital of the Medical School in Svierdlovsk in two years there were ten splenectomies performed. The hospitals of medical schools in the Soviet Union are the largest having the best specialists and equipment, and [redacted] that in other hospitals splenectomies were performed in the same number - if any at all. 25X1

5. This article shows that the knowledge of hemorrhagic diseases and indications for splenectomies by this author are behind modern medicine for many years. The diagnostic facilities are poor and primitive.

[redacted] a few interesting points: 25X1

6. Surgery in the Soviet Union does not use any of modern antibiotics except penicillin which is given very carefully, for example in amount from 100,000 to 300,000, and very rarely up to 500,000 units, even in cases of severe generalized infection like peritonitis and others.

7. The sulfa drugs used are mostly of old type. From the new sulfa preparations they use only sulfadiazine.

8. There is not any sign of using dihydro- and streptomycin, aureomycin, terramycin, chloromycetin, erythromycin, or some typical antibiotics such as bacitracin, neomycin, polymyxin, furacin etc.,etc. In my opinion, the top medical men in Soviet Union know about all modern antibiotics but they do not print anything about it because they cannot put those antibiotics on the market for general use.

9. The surgical bacteriology is presented very poorly.

10. The pre- and post-operative treatment in many articles is old and primitive. Of the parenteral fluids I found only physiological solution. No sign of important electrolic fluids, plasma, parenteral nutrition, fluid balance etc.

11. In the journals through the whole year [redacted] 25X1
anticoagulants.

12. There is very poor surgical pathology (if any), especially microscopic.

13. The discussions in articles are very poorly illustrated by facts, especially statistics.

14. These few remarks do not really show surgical progress in the Soviet Union in 1952.

[redacted] The impression these journals make is, however, 25X1
interesting, because they are official editions and published not in a small provincial town of USSR, but in the center of Soviet Union and, therefore, they are a great authority for the whole country.

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